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Category Other communication with John
Date November 7, 1987

**FETZER FOUNDATION
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING SYMBOLISM
11/7/87 BOARD MEETING**

AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Symbols have been important to humanity since our first sketches on cave walls. They have a unique ability to bring material from subconscious to conscious awareness without imposing a specific demand on the viewer. They also can affect human physiology in subtle or profound ways. (What was your response the last time you saw a powerful symbol like the Nazi swastika? Did your muscles tighten or your heart rate increase the least bit?)

We see this most often in the visual and performing arts. But the buildings we live and work in each day--their structure and the symbols they contain--also have a powerful cumulative effect on us. Thus, it is important to understand what we are exposed to in these environments.

The administration building for the Fetzer Foundation was built and furnished with the influence of symbols in mind. This document is one version of the original intent of some of the building's symbolism. Clearly, each person who enters this structure will experience something unique, based on their own personal experiences, values, and beliefs.

THE PROPERTY

The building is located out in the country by a small lake, a place of retreat and quiet away from the city. At the same time it is within ten miles of the airport and bus station, shopping centers and restaurants, local businesses, and all the other elements of modern society. So the Foundation is in a location which allows it to be a part of and to serve the world, and yet not be totally in the world.

Great care was taken to maintain the natural contours and beauty of the property during construction. Instead of leveling the land, trucking the dirt and stone away, and then bringing materials back in, elements on the property that have been there for thousands of years were used. For example, one of the most common parts of the land is stone, and most of the stones used for the retaining walls and the electrical plant shielding came directly from the property. Nature and the original energies of the land were disturbed as little as possible.

representing the heart and soul of the organization. In the center of the first floor is the computer center and on the southeast corner of the second floor is the library. These symbolize the mental activity of humanity. The physical fitness center and the dining and kitchen facilities on the first floor all are meant to take care of physical well-being. Finally, the spiritual realm is represented for the general public by the atrium, and for the employees and Board members by the meditation room in the northeast corner of the second floor.

The interior colors and fabrics are all meant to be natural and soothing, yet energizing at the same time. Brass was chosen to represent, in an affordable way, the highly refined nature and purity of gold. The basic color of the walls is soft white, providing neutrality for decoration. Together with the other main colors (blue, green, and burgundy), this again represents the four human aspects of mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual progress and well-being.

THE FRONT ENTRANCE

The carving over the front entrance to the building is from Egyptian culture and is rich with symbolism. The wings above the entrance represent the wings of Ra-horakhty, the vulture god, the protector of the spirit. In ancient Egypt these wings were placed above the doorways of households and in each temple as a sign of protection and grace. The scales at the top of the wings represent Sebek, the crocodile god of Egypt. The crocodile was a symbol for the subconscious and the process of bringing things to conscious clarity.

The solar disk in the center of the design represents the rising sun. In spiritual terms it symbolizes the Christ consciousness, or the Son aspect of the Trinity, coming to full illumination. In old Egypt it was Horace, the falcon god, who represented the Son aspect of the Trinity, and the sun disk was his emblem.

The cobras on either side of the solar disk symbolize the ida and the pingala, the positive and negative creative forces within humanity. In this particular form, with the solar disk in between, they represent an individual or a group of people who have come together with creative potential and awareness.

THE BACK ENTRANCE

The back of the building is set into a natural amphitheater. This, in turn, creates a natural field of resonance or an antenna because of its disk shape. On the large back entrance pad is a

of England, and Thomas Jefferson. The room itself is a half dome, modeled after Monticello.

The stained glass window over the Hall of Records is a more modern representation of the solar disk carved over the front entrance. It is interesting to note that four of the men in the Hall of Records--Ramses II, Louis XIV, Francis I, and Thomas Jefferson--used the sun as their personal emblem or mark.

A more detailed account of the Hall of Records is contained in another document.

THE ONE WORLD ROOM

To represent the Foundation's international nature and scope, the main dining room has been designated as the "One World Room." The tables in this room are made out of woods that have come from every continent in the world--Africa, Australia, South America, and so on. This is a daily reminder that, with its mission, the Foundation is concerned with the well-being of the entire planet.

THE UPSTAIRS HALLWAYS

The upstairs hallways were designed to convey the impression of a great European Gothic cathedral, yet another of humanity's attempts to reach for greater spiritual understanding. The peaked ceilings covered with soft cloth also symbolize a tent--a canopy of physical protection, warmth, and familiarity. Thus, one design symbolizes two things of significantly different scale and meaning.

THE OUTSIDE OFFICES

The individual offices placed around the outside of the second floor carry on the European monastic theme begun in the hallways. They are places where intense mental activity can occur in a relatively quiet environment.

The windows in these rooms together symbolize the physical and spiritual aspects of humanity. The long lower window, which is eye-level when you are seated, represents the physical realm where we live and work every day. Each office also has an upper window which acts as a skylight. In order to look out of that window, you must look up. This is meant to be a continuous reminder that, while we live and work in the physical, the fundamental energy to do that work comes from another plane.

THE MEDITATION ROOM

The meditation room is set aside specifically as a place of retreat, contemplation, and prayer for the Foundation's Board members and employees. The room is very plain with white walls, blue chairs, and lavender cushions. These colors represent the higher energy centers in some Eastern traditions, and signify royalty in the West. The visual focal point of the room is a large lighted crystal in the back corner.

The entry to the meditation room is a small maze, symbolizing "the straight and narrow way" mentioned in the New Testament of the Bible. A maze on the physical level forces individuals who enter the room to be conscious of their actions so they don't walk into a wall. This is a physical reminder that entry into spiritual exploration demands conscious attention and great care.

THE ART COLLECTION

The corporate art collection will be built over time, but already includes a number of paintings, crystals, and pieces of sculpture. Although there is no single theme uniting the whole collection, all the pieces are meant to provide a moment of beauty, reflection, or just plain fun for the viewer. As with all art collections, each individual will enjoy some pieces more than others. However, it is hoped there will eventually be enough variety so everyone who visits this building will walk away with fond memories of "that one particular piece."

sculpture made from black marble entitled, "Intuition".

The walls inside the back door contain a mirrored pair of another ancient Egyptian symbol. These are replicas of the angels of protection that were engraved on sarcophagi. They were called the guardians of the inner realm, and were the angels responsible for greeting people to the world of spirit. For the Foundation employees who use this entrance, these symbols are a daily reminder that true protection and peace come from within and that our time to do work in the world is limited.

THE SERPENTINE WALL

The serpentine wall, which wraps from under the atrium into the front wall of the building, provides physical support for the entrance. It also is a reminder of the freedoms developed in America and articulated by Thomas Jefferson, whose writings have had great influence on John Fetzer personally. The wall and building together combine the classic Jeffersonian influence with a modern triangular shape, symbolizing the best of yesterday being brought forward into today's world.

THE WATERFALL

The waterfall in the atrium is made of highly polished black granite and is curved to repeat the Jeffersonian statement made by the serpentine wall outside.

The water is set to run at a slow wash rather than in streams, and it contains no chemicals. Pristine water has been used by all peoples throughout time as a purifying and cleansing agent. With this particular waterfall, pure water is being continuously run over black granite, which represents the physical. So the waterfall represents the cleansing of the individual physical body and the planet as a whole.

In addition, for many religions in the world a pool of water has been considered a mirror of higher knowledge and a symbol of prophecy. The waterfall is a reminder of this tradition and an invitation to look beyond immediate physical reality for truth.

THE HALL OF RECORDS

The Hall of Records contains busts of historical figures who have personally symbolized to John Fetzer certain building blocks in humanity's evolution and progress. The busts included represent Socrates, Ramses II, Francis I of France, Joseph of Arimathea, Louis XIV of France, St. John of the Cross, Henry II

THE COOLING TOWER

The cooling tower located off the east side of the building was designed in the shape of an obelisk. In many religious traditions the obelisk represents that part of us reaching up toward God or some higher source of energy and being. The obelisk also represents spiritual light coming in to manifest creation in the physical world.

THE ENTRANCE WALKWAY

The walkway in the front parking lot is a rough aggregate made of loosely organized large stones. As you approach the building the composite becomes progressively finer and smaller. When you go through the entrance, you will see that the floor in the lobby is not only exceedingly fine but also highly polished. Walking this path is a symbol of how humans tend to approach nature: we take something that appears to be disorganized and we try to organize and refine it. So the walkway goes from less to more organized, from rough to smooth, from gross to more refined. This is also symbolic of each individual's spiritual journey--from unconscious states to larger arenas of awareness.

THE BUILDING

The building itself is an equilateral triangle, and that motif is the dominant shape throughout the building. The Foundation's corporate logo, an inverted triangle with a "J" and "F" interlocked inside, can be seen in the brass railings and on some of the furniture. Within this basic theme are several other shapes: squares, rectangles, parallelograms, and circles to name a few. Each shape has different meanings, depending on the culture and belief system of the viewer. For example, the triangle may represent the Trinity to a Christian, while the circle is an ancient representation of completion or infinity.

The building is clad in three colors of granite, inspired by the Aswan granite used in some of the ancient pyramids of Egypt. The black granite at the bottom represents the physical plane of existence. The gray granite symbolizes the mental and emotional aspects of our being. And, finally, the roof and the top of the atrium are white, symbolizing the spiritual realm. Red is a symbol of welcome and joy in many Eastern cultures. So the red granite on both entrances says, "Welcome to our home".

The rooms within the building can also be seen as symbolic of the Foundation's mission in holism and healing. In the northwest corner are the Founder's room and the Board room, together